WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO. 3 MAR. 1988

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	Dec '87	Jan '88
Labor Force	228,224	227,119
Employment	210,863	206,892
Unemployment	17,361	20,227
Rate (Raw)	7.6	8.9
Rate (S.A.)	7.6	7.6
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.15	$14.78
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	45.9	42.5
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.8	5.8
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.49	$12.61
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.0	42.2
Consumer Price Index All Urban 1967 = 100		
U.S. City Avg.	115.4	115.7
Year Change (U.S.)	+4.0	+4.0

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

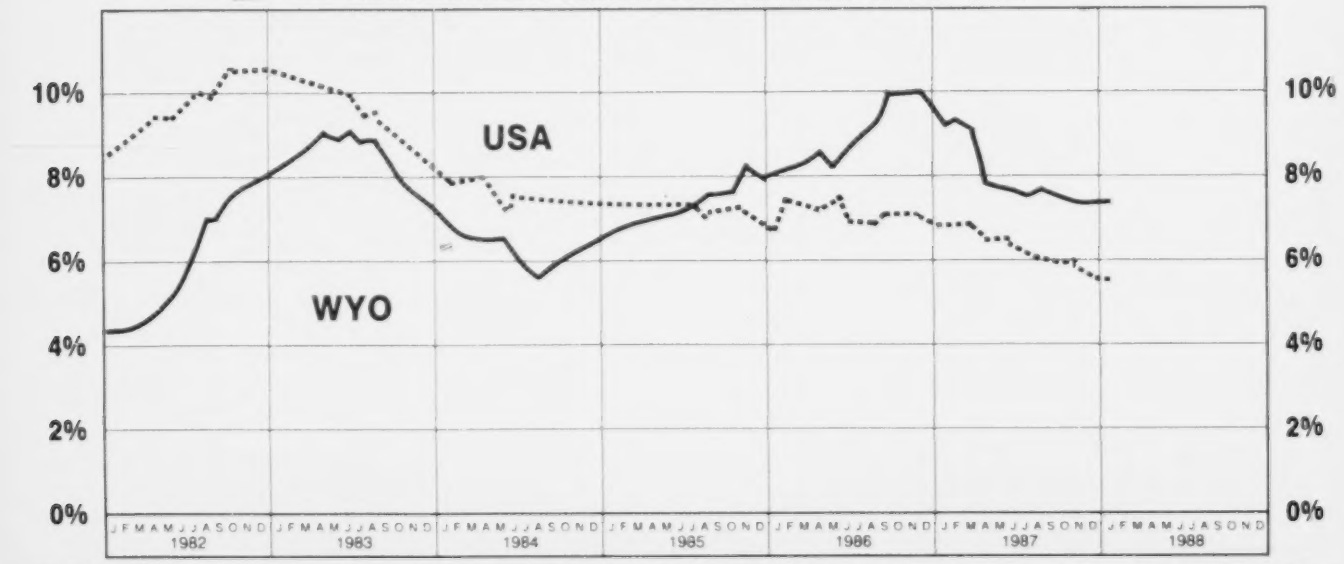
— Wyoming Occupation Outlook 1986 Projected to 1989
— Industrial Employment Projections
— Occupational Employment Projections

NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT RISES

January's total civilian employment increased by 385,000 to 114.1 million, seasonally adjusted, and that part of the population with jobs gained two-tenths of a percent. Year-to-year civilian employment rose by 3.1 million, with Hispanics, who comprise about seven percent of the employed labor force, showing a gain of more than 20 percent annually.

Unemployment, nationally, did not change in January and growth in non ag jobs slowed. The total civilian unemployment rate for the month was 5.8 percent, seasonally adjusted, the same as December, but down substantially from the 6.7 percent rate recorded in January, 1987. There was little or no change during the month in the jobless rates for adult men and women (both 5.1 percent), teenagers (16.0 percent), whites (5.0 percent), and blacks (12.2 percent). The unemployment rate for Hispanics declined to 7.2 percent during the month.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section

Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The average duration of unemployment in January was 14.4 weeks, up from 14.2 weeks in December, but was a decline from 15.0 weeks registered in January, 1987.

Civilian labor force grew by 450,000 to a seasonally adjusted level of 121.2 million in January. This is two million more than the past year and the labor force participation rate climbed to a record 65.9 precent in January.

In service industries, where growth is usually greatest, only 30,000 jobs were added, but in retail trade there was a gain of 155,000 workers. Wholesale trade added 20,000 jobs, while employment in government fell by 65,000, falling back to last November's level. Finance, insurance and real estate has shown little change since October and manufacturing grew by only 25,000 jobs in January. Growth was weak in durable goods industries related to construction, and in auto manufacturing, machinery and electrical equipment continued to improve. In nondurables, increases in printing and publishing and the food industries were partially offset by declines in textiles and apparel. There was a drop of 15,000 in mining, mostly in oil and gas extraction, while construction employment fell by 50,000.

"UPWARD IN JANUARY" GOES WYOMING'S UNEMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for Wyoming in January remained at 7.6 percent, the same as December, but was down fully three percent from January, 1987's rate of 10.6 percent.

January's unadjusted unemployment rate for Wyoming was posted at 8.9 percent—the fourth month-to-month increase in a row. However, compared to the January, 1987 the rate is much lower than the 12.3 percent recorded at that time.

Unemployment in January, as is usually the case, increased substantially to 20,227 from 17,361 in December, 1987 but was down substantially from the January, 1987 total of 29,287.

WYOMING'S LABOR FORCE CONTINUES TO SHRINK

The state's civilian labor force continued to shrivel in January—down to just over 227,100, which compares to about 238,400 one year ago. That's a decline of 4.7 percent, year-to-year. The current labor force figure is the lowest it has been in January since January, 1980 when it was logged in at 216,500. There were 206,900 employed workers this January, compared to about 209,000 in January, 1987, a decrease of just over one percent. Only manufacturing and mining indicated annual employment gains across the state. All other major industries were at or below last year's levels.

AREA TRENDS

During the month of January, there were 16 counties which showed declines in their labor force, and Natrona County had the largest number of people looking for work, more than 2,800, with an unemployment rate of 9.3 percent. However, that is down almost five percent from the 14.1 percent posted in January, 1987. Laramie County had more than 2,600 unemployed, but their jobless rate was only 7.3 percent, due to the fact that the labor force in Laramie County is nearly 6,000 larger than Natrona County's. The lowest unemployment rate in the state was shared by Albany and Teton counties, with 5.3 percent.

OTHER STATES

In January, Wyoming tied with the state of Washington for the tenth highest unemployment rate in the nation. West Virginia again had the highest unemployment rate with 10.8 percent, and New Hampshire had the lowest, again with 2.2 percent.

WYOMING OCCUPATION OUTLOOK 1986 PROJECTED TO 1989

Recently the Research and Analysis Section in cooperation with the Wyoming Occupational Information Coordinating Committee made an attempt to project industrial and occupational employment to the year 1989. The projections were developed using a microcomputer based matrix system developed by the Utah Department of Employment Security.

The results of the projections will appear in the publication, *Wyoming Occupational Outlook, 1986 Projected to 1989*. The publication should be available in the near future and is free to anyone interested. Some of the results of the project appear in this edition of the *Trends*.

INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Wyoming is following the national trend of a more service oriented society. The Research and Analysis Section projects that from 1986 to 1989 the state's service industry will grow 6.5 percent. Payroll job growth will be strong for almost all of the service producing industries, particularly health services, business services, and day care services.

That was the good news. Some industries in Wyoming are expected to decline, or grow at a very modest pace. Agriculture is expected to fall 10.3 percent over the next three years. Most of this decline will be among self-employed and unpaid family workers who are facing the fact that the costs of production outweigh any profits.

Government employment is expected to decline 3.6 percent from 1986 to 1989. While federal employment is expected to remain stable, state and local government employment will deteriorate.

In addition, the mining industry in Wyoming is not expected to fare well in the future. The industry will grow an anemic 1.4 percent over the next three years. After several years of poor performance, the mining industry will do little to help Wyoming's employment.

Surprisingly, construction will do better than expected, particularly heavy construction. It is projected that construction will grow about two percent annually, due in part, to highway repairs.

All in all, the state's future employment is projected to grow about one percent annually. Not much, but better than declines experienced over the previous years.

WYOMING INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTIONS 1986 AND PROJECTED 1989

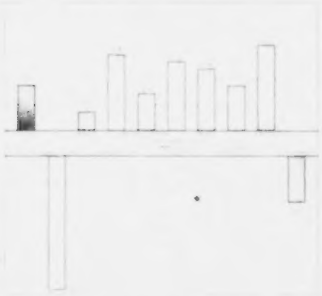
INDUSTRY	1986 EMPLOYMENT	PERCENT OF TOTAL	PROJECTED 1989 EMPLOYMENT	PERCENT OF TOTAL	ACTUAL CHANGE FROM 1986	1986 TO 1989 PERCENT CHANGE
Agriculture	10,770	4.8	9,660	4.1	-1,110	-10.3
Mining	19,470	8.6	19,750	8.4	280	1.4
Construction	18,020	8.0	19,060	8.1	1,040	5.8
Manufacturing	8,050	3.5	8,280	3.5	230	2.9
TCU	14,730	6.5	15,510	6.6	780	5.3
Trade	44,730	19.7	46,870	20.0	2,140	4.8
FIRE	8,300	3.7	8,590	3.7	290	3.5
Services	77,690	34.3	82,760	35.3	5,070	6.5
Government	24,750	10.9	23,860	10.2	- 890	- 3.6
Total	226,500	100.0	234,340	100.0	7,840	3.5

WYOMING OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT FOR 1986 AND PROJECTED FOR 1989

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	1986 EMPLOYMENT	1989 EMPLOYMENT	1986-1989 NUMERICAL CHANGE	1986-1989 PERCENT CHANGE	ANNUAL AVERAGE NUMERICAL CHANGE
Managerial & Administrative	13,260	13,790	530	4.0	177
Professional, Paraprofessional, & Technical	41,640	43,250	1,610	3.9	537
Sales & Related Occupations	20,510	21,870	1,360	6.6	453
Clerical & Administrative Support	33,050	34,220	1,170	3.5	390
Service Occupations	39,410	40,980	1,570	4.0	523
Agriculture, Forestry, & Fishery	11,750	10,810	-940	-8.0	-313
Production, Operating & Maintenance	66,870	69,440	2,570	3.8	857
Total*	226,500	234,340	7,840	3.5	2,613

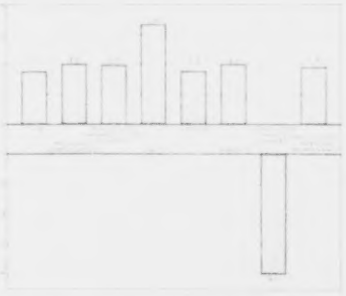
*May not equal detail due to rounding

WYOMING 1986 TO 1989 PROJECTED PERCENT CHANGE BY INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTIONS



Source: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis in cooperation with Wyoming Occupational Information Coordinating Committee.
Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, March, 1988.

WYOMING 1986 TO 1989 PROJECTED PERCENT CHANGE BY OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS



Source: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis in cooperation with Wyoming Occupational Information Coordinating Committee.
Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, March, 1988.

OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

It appears future employment growth in Wyoming will be tied closely to sales and service occupations. Of the top ten occupations with the highest growth rates and employment of 500 or more, all but three would be considered sales or service occupations.

The top growth occupations from 1986 to 1989 will be child care workers, followed by sales representatives. Child care workers will grow annually by 115 positions, while sales representatives will add about 45 new positions each year. Truck drivers seem to be on the move, and although the growth rate for this occupation isn't as high as some, there could be about 200 new jobs created annually.

One occupational group is on the decline. Agriculture, forestry, and fishery occupations can expect to lose about 300 jobs annually based on past performances.

WYOMING TOP TEN OCCUPATIONS BY PROJECTED GROWTH RATES AND EMPLOYMENT OVER 500 1986 TO 1989

OCCUPATION	ANNUAL GROWTH RATE	1986 EMPLOYMENT	1989 EMPLOYMENT	TOTAL GROWTH	ANNUAL GROWTH	ANNUAL SEPARATIONS	ANNUAL OPENINGS
1. Child Care Workers	6.2	1,561	2,205	344	115	73	188
2. Sales Representatives, Except Scientific Prod	4.1	1,039	1,174	135	45	28	73
3. Bus Drivers	3.0	518	560	42	21	22	43
4. Cleaners, Private Household	3.6	645	715	70	23	90	113
5. Teachers, Preschool and Kindergarten	3.4	554	611	57	19	4	23
6. All Other Teachers and Instructors	3.4	1,002	1,104	102	34	45	79
7. Insurance Sales Workers	3.1	859	947	78	25	33	59
8. Truck Drivers	2.8	2,552	3,156	604	201	198	399
9. Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas	2.5	568	613	45	15	5	20
10. First Line Supervisors, Sales	2.6	1,333	1,437	104	35	57	92

Source: W.E.S.C. Research and Analysis in cooperation with Wyoming Occupational Information Coordinating Committee.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)
ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
January 1988	115.7	115.7	116.2	118.1	110.4	107.1	134.4
Annual % Change	4.0	3.2	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.4	6.2

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JAN 1988[1]	DEC 1987[1]	JAN 1987[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	227,119	228,224	238,384	- 0.5	- 4.7
Unemployment	20,227	17,361	29,287	16.5	- 30.9
Employed Labor Force	206,892	210,863	209,097	- 1.9	- 1.1
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	159,800	166,900	163,424	- 4.3	- 2.2
b. Agriculture[3]	8,144	9,244	8,712	- 11.9	- 6.5
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	8.9% 7.6%*	7.6% 7.6%*	12.3% 10.6%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	6.3% 5.8%*	5.4% 5.8%*	7.3% 6.7%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	3.5%	2.7%	5.1%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 628.15	$ 649.49	$ 611.94	- 3.2	2.6
Average Weekly Hours	42.5	45.9	42.0	- 7.4	1.2
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.78	$ 14.15	$ 14.57	4.5	1.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	28,642	24,851	45,864	15.3	- 37.6
a. Initial	4,626	4,044	5,713	14.4	- 19.0
Weeks Compensated	21,066	20,708	42,255	1.7	- 50.1
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 3,329,177	$ 3,207,035	$ 6,955,194	3.8	- 52.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 157.69	$ 154.50	$ 164.34	2.1	- 4.0
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	3,176	3,954	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	2,335	1,503	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	2,728	1,395	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 532.14	$ 537.07	$ 538.05	- 0.9	- 1.1
Average Weekly Hours	42.2	43.0	42.5	- 1.9	- 0.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.61	$ 12.49	$ 12.66	1.0	0.4
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1967 = 100	115.7	115.4	111.2	0.3	4.0
Producer Prices, All Commodities	104.5	104.1	100.5	0.4	4.0
Food and Beverage 1967 = 100	115.7	114.8	112.1	0.8	3.2

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	%CHANGE DEC-JAN	%CHANGE JAN-JAN	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987	JAN 1988	DEC 1987	JAN 1987
Statewide	227,119	228,224	238,384	- 0.5	- 4.7	20,227	17,361	29,287	8.9	7.6	12.3
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									7.6	7.6	10.6
Albany	15,906	16,075	15,614	- 1.1	1.9	842	739	1,073	5.3	4.6	6.9
Big Horn	4,460	4,439	4,789	0.5	- 6.9	447	413	736	10.0	9.3	15.4
Campbell	14,618	14,968	15,945	- 2.3	- 8.3	1,226	1,022	2,023	8.4	6.8	12.7
Carbon	7,382	7,518	7,890	- 1.8	- 6.4	806	712	1,192	10.9	9.5	15.1
Converse	5,333	5,398	5,998	- 1.2	- 11.1	569	453	893	10.7	8.4	14.9
Crook	2,941	3,102	2,921	- 5.2	0.7	283	195	342	* 9.6	6.3	11.7
Fremont	15,677	15,013	16,473	4.4	- 4.8	1,762	1,401	2,316	11.2	9.3	14.1
Goshen	6,074	6,024	5,990	0.8	1.4	651	375	440	10.7	6.2	7.3
Hot Springs	3,036	2,930	2,963	3.6	2.5	200	212	282	6.6	7.2	9.5
Johnson	3,179	3,229	3,345	- 1.5	- 5.0	274	222	498	8.6	6.9	14.9
Laramie	36,067	36,217	35,784	- 0.4	0.8	2,622	2,273	3,049	7.3	6.3	8.5
Lincoln	6,004	6,167	6,673	- 2.6	- 10.0	811	661	1,064	13.5	10.7	15.9
Natrona	30,304	31,006	32,530	- 2.3	- 6.8	2,829	2,465	4,583	9.3	8.0	14.1
Niobrara	1,770	1,826	1,620	- 3.1	9.3	139	154	162	7.9	8.4	10.0
Park	11,915	11,919	12,276	0.0	- 2.9	1,043	805	1,483	8.8	6.8	12.1
Platte	4,296	4,191	4,420	2.5	- 2.8	406	364	592	9.5	8.7	13.4
Sheridan	11,677	11,726	12,508	- 0.4	- 6.6	961	817	1,411	8.2	7.0	11.3
Sublette	2,558	2,678	3,069	- 4.5	- 16.7	311	306	510	12.2	11.4	16.6
Sweetwater	17,875	18,265	20,324	- 2.1	- 12.0	1,972	1,804	3,196	11.0	9.9	15.7
Teton	9,050	8,631	8,286	4.9	9.2	478	506	542	5.3	5.9	6.5
Uinta	9,384	8,966	10,820	4.7	- 13.3	1,025	929	1,815	10.9	10.4	16.8
Washakie	4,441	4,683	4,711	- 5.2	- 5.7	326	344	660	7.3	7.3	14.0
Weston	3,171	3,250	3,439	- 2.4	- 7.8	245	188	427	7.7	5.8	12.4
United States									6.3	5.4	7.3
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.8	5.8	6.7

* The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JAN 1988[2]	DEC 1987[3]	JAN 1987	DEC 1987	JAN 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to JAN 1988	to JAN 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	173.0	177.2	176.3	- 2.4	- 1.9
Manufacturing	8.0	8.3	7.6	- 3.6	5.3
Durable Goods	3.5	3.6	3.3	- 2.8	6.1
Nondurable Goods	4.5	4.7	4.3	- 4.2	4.6
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	165.0	168.9	168.7	- 2.3	- 2.2
Mining	17.4	17.8	17.1	- 2.2	1.8
Contract Construction	7.1	8.2	8.8	- 13.4	- 19.3
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.8	12.7	13.1	0.8	- 2.3
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	2.0	0.0	- 5.0
Transportation except Railroads	4.8	4.9	5.0	- 2.0	- 4.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.1	5.9	6.1	3.4	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	38.6	40.3	39.6	- 4.2	- 2.5
Wholesale Trade	6.7	6.8	6.9	- 1.5	- 2.9
Retail Trade	31.9	33.5	32.7	- 4.8	- 2.4
Food Stores	4.9	4.9	4.9	0.0	0.0
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.1	5.2	5.3	- 1.9	- 3.8
Eating & Drinking Places	11.6	12.3	11.7	- 5.7	- 0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.3	7.3	7.6	0.0	- 3.9
Services	30.8	30.9	31.0	- 0.3	- 0.6
Personal Services	1.8	1.8	1.8	0.0	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.7	7.6	7.3	1.3	5.5
Government	51.0	51.7	51.4	- 1.4	- 0.8
Federal Government	7.3	7.4	7.0	- 1.4	4.3
State & Local Government	43.7	44.3	44.4	- 1.4	- 1.6
State Government	13.2	13.3	13.5	- 0.8	- 2.2
Local Government	30.5	31.0	30.9	- 1.6	- 1.3

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JAN 1988[2]	DEC 1987[3]	JAN 1987	DEC 1987	JAN 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to JAN 1988	to JAN 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	25.5	26.5	26.4	- 3.8	- 3.4
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	24.2	25.2	25.2	- 4.0	- 4.0
Mining	2.6	2.6	2.3	0.0	13.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.4	2.4	2.2	0.0	9.1
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.0	100.0
Contract Construction	1.1	1.2	1.3	- 8.3	- 15.4
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.8	8.0	7.7	- 2.5	1.3
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.5	5.7	5.4	- 3.5	1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.2	5.4	5.5	- 3.7	- 5.4
Government	4.4	4.9	5.2	- 10.2	- 15.3
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	3.8	4.3	4.5	- 11.6	- 15.6
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	29.4	29.9	29.8	- 1.7	- 1.3
Manufacturing	1.0	1.1	1.0	- 9.1	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	28.4	28.8	28.8	- 1.4	- 1.4
Contract Construction	1.6	1.7	1.6	- 5.9	0.0
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.5	0.0	- 4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.0	7.2	7.0	- 2.8	0.0
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.3	6.5	6.3	- 3.1	0.0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Government	9.9	10.0	10.0	- 1.0	0.0
Federal Government	2.7	2.8	2.7	- 3.6	0.0
State & Local Government	7.2	7.2	7.3	0.0	- 1.4

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

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WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

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